APPENDIX 9.

Statement.

Name of Applicant.	Areas applied for. Acre	Cent	Land value offered.
1. Pazhedat Manakkal Purushottaman Purushottaman Namburi	2	33	No land value was offered
2. Tekkiniyedath Kirangat Manakkal Sankaran Narayanan Namburippad	0	16	Do.
3. Kattur Krishna Pisharoti	103	84	Do.
4. Kizhamundayur Manakkal Narayanan Parameswaran Aditirippad	1	10	Do.

N. B.—All these applications were dismissed, as the policy of the Government is not to assign *kole* areas pending the formulation of a scheme for the improvement of facilities for the drainage and irrigation of *kole* lands.

General Discussion of the Budget—(*cont.*)

PRESIDENT.—

We shall resume the general discussion of the Budget.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

Sir, Before I proceed to make a few general observations on the budget, allow me to congratulate you, on behalf of the community I represent in this Council, on your well-merited elevation to the post of the Diwan. Coming to the budget itself, I do not think, I feel pessimistic about it. The deficit of Rs. 1,38,000 is mainly due to the State's contribution to Harbour works and the provision for a scheme of electric lighting in the Mattancherry town, both of which, in my opinion, are productive works of a very important character, which will amply repay the money spent on them. I do not, however, deny that we have now to face a situation of increasing expenditure combined with a somewhat unexpandable revenue. This is a situation which naturally gives a good deal of difficulty. I think the Hon'ble Finance Member has been fairly successful in meeting it so far as the new year is concerned; and on this I most cordially congratulate him. But looking into the future, we find that our greatest source of revenue, namely, the Land revenue, has ceased to expand. Our next great source of revenue,

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Excise, is threatened by the movement of total Prohibition, which aims at cutting it off altogether. It is not surprising, therefore, if some of the hon'ble members who spoke yesterday did not spare those spending departments which are crying for large allotments. However much I admire the sincerity and patriotism of such members, I cannot help stating that the line of attack they took up is based upon a mistaken policy. For it is just those spending departments that contribute greatly to the economic prosperity and social happiness of the masses.

Sir, special attacks have been made on Education and Agriculture. The hon'ble member for the Jewish constituency yesterday condemned the activities of these very necessary and important departments as "luxuries and experiments of dubitable value." He cried for a halt in the expenditure in the Education Department, merely on the ground that it has doubled itself in the course of the last decade. He thinks that the sooner the Agricultural Department is abolished, the better it is. My hon'ble friend, the member for Nellayi, joined in this chorus of denunciation. "This costly white elephant, the Central Farm"; "We do not want botanical gardens"; "Electric light is not a necessity but a luxury"—these are some of the catch-words and phrases he used to focus the attention of the House on what he imagined as so many items on which good money should not be thrown away.

Now, Sir, what are the facts? To come to the Department of Education, people both in British India and other native States are envious of the giant strides we have made in education during the last decade. Educationally, we may call Cochin a model State, so great is the advance we have made in this direction. The hon'ble member from Vyttila deplored, yesterday, the absence of compulsory elementary education in the State and referred in this connection to the progress made in British Cochin. Sir, I am completely at one with him in his view that compulsory elementary education should be put in force at as early a date as possible; for this shall be but a proper and natural consummation of the advanced policy we have hitherto pursued in the

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field of Education. But we are not to infer from the absence of a Compulsory Education Act, that the percentage of literacy is low in the State. In appendix H of the Cochin Administration Report for the year 1099 M. E., I find that the proportion of boys and girls who actually attend schools to the total population of the school-going age is 90·6 per cent and 45·4 per cent respectively. I do not think that in India there are many places where the percentage of literacy is so high.

Sir, I am not unaware that our educational structure, admirable as it is, can further be improved upon by a little more judicious handling of Secondary education. It is my well-considered opinion that we have reached a stage in educational development when the Government may leave Secondary education exclusively to private agencies. It is no exaggeration to say that private agencies deserve well of the people of this State and of the Government for, they have relieved the latter of a great portion of its task of spreading education. I have moved a cut in this direction; and when it comes up for discussion, I shall enter into the details of this proposal.

May I, Sir, avail myself of this opportunity to point out that certain recent circulars of the Director of Public Instruction affecting the maximum and minimum strength of classes, have aroused a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the managers of private institutions; and if persisted in, will, I am sure, mar the efficiency and progress so far achieved in the field of Education.

Collegiate education came in for a good deal of criticism yesterday. Sir, while I cannot understand the haste with which the scheme of a Government First Grade College was pushed through last year, I enter a protest against the statement by some hon'ble members who discouraged the claims of higher education. Higher education has established a world-wide renown, and is the fundamental basis of all cultural and scientific development without which civilization cannot progress. Hence money spent on this is spent on a very good cause.

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Coming to the Agricultural Department which has been also a constant target for attack yesterday, I may say at once that those criticisms would not have been made, if the hon'ble members had taken the pains to investigate the proper functioning of the department in the course of the last decade. Experimental work of various kinds including paddy-manure, trial of varieties of paddy, seed-selection, plantations, stock-breeding &c, are being conducted in the Central Farm at Ollukkara. Besides, there is also here an Agricultural School, where a growing number of teachers are trained in agricultural methods on up-to-date and scientific lines. Recently, the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, issued a memorandum inviting public opinion on the urgent necessity of making Agriculture a compulsory subject for School Final students who do not intend to proceed for Collegiate education. I am sure that ere long this system will be introduced not only in Madras, but in our State also ; and I request the hon'ble members who clamoured yesterday for the suppression of the Central Farm to change their opinion in the light of this development in the immediate future.

The hon'ble member from Chalakkudi, in the course of a very severe indictment of the department, referred to its helplessness in coping with the recent cocoanut-pest. He may be surprised to know that the Agricultural Superintendent, instead of remaining a passive spectator of this malady, lost no time in getting down a large number of spraying machines which were sold to the ryots at reasonable prices. The timely use of spraying machines resulted in the saving of a large sum of about 7 lakhs of rupees to the latter.

If better progress were not made hitherto in the Agricultural Department during the last decade, it is due to the working of certain adverse causes, namely, ignorance and prejudice on the part of the ryots, want of sufficient capital, absence of the necessary guarantee against evictions—evil factors which time alone can remove. Another great handicap to the successful working of the department is the absence of a well-equipped laboratory at the Central Farm. I am sure that this defect will be remedied at a very early date.

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Sir, I would request the House to note the fact that the process of research-work and experimentation is necessarily a slow and laborious one; and agricultural research is no exception to the rule. Arm-chair doctrinarians may easily criticise the initial difficulties of such a department; but a representative House like this, containing as it does the collective wisdom of the State, should give the department the consideration it deserves.

The hon'ble member from Chalakkudi attacked the Forest Department also. He placed at its door the very serious charge, if true, of the sale of a large quantity of valuable timber at an absurdly low price, thereby causing a great loss to the State-Exchequer. I hope that the Conservator of Forests will throw light on this matter. I have some constructive proposals to make on the two allied departments, the Tramway and the Forest, which would place the working of the former on a more satisfactory basis and which would bring in a greater amount of income to the State. For want of time, I postpone the consideration of this till the discussion of the motions on the budget.

Sir, after taking a careful survey of the above departments, I do not think that the remedy for our financial difficulties lies in any way in starving them. If more funds are required for the furtherance of the material and moral progress of the State, we must look for them on the revenue side rather than on the expenditure side. We may even impose an income-tax on a progressive basis, say, for all incomes above 10,000 rupees, putting the maximum at 4 as. in the rupee; or, we may adopt the proposal of the hon'ble member from Mulakunnattukavu in which he advocates the raising of loans to finance big undertakings of a reproductive nature, the profits of which will be shared also by our posterity.

Mr. V. K. KOCHCHUNNI MENON (*Ernakulam*).

Mr. President:—During the discussion of the budget yesterday most of its salient features were touched upon and I do not therefore think it necessary to take up much of the time of the House in making a few remarks which I have to make.

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I generally agree with the observations of Mr. C. Achyuta Menon that large reproductive works should not be provided for out of current revenue, unless at least there is a large margin left after meeting all the necessary and legitimate demands of the year. His observation that the pay and travelling allowance of the services require careful revision with a view to retrenchment also appears to me just. The pay of most of the Heads of Departments were fixed at a time when those offices were held by persons imported from British service. That necessity having ceased to exist, it is nothing but proper that it should now be fixed with regard to the present exigencies of the State. Whatever saving that might be made by such revision cannot, I think, be made available for reducing the deficit of the budget under discussion. The revision cannot be made all at once and, I do not also think, it would be proper to make the revised scale applicable to the present incumbents. The savings effected by the revision of T. A. may, however, be utilised for that purpose. What that amount will be I am not in a position to say.

The other sources of savings suggested are the discontinuance of the Forest-Tramway, of the Agricultural Farm and Cocoanut Station, the refusal of the demands for the First Grade College, the Leper Asylum and for the Electric Lighting of Mattancherry. With regard to the Forest-Tramway, I am also of opinion that it is better in the interest of the State to do away with it. Although it was intended to help the Forest Department in increasing its income, we find from the Administration Reports of the past few years that it has become a drain on it. The Administration Report of 1099 shows that out of 24,000 and odd candies of timber transported from the forests in that year, less than half of that alone were transported by the Tramway. The same report shows that 1,230 candies of teak, 159 candies of rose-wood and 10,831 candies of jungle wood, besides large quantities of bamboos and fuel, were removed by purchasers and consumers. In addition to the value and seigniorage realised on these, the Forest Department realised Rs. 48,396 also on account of the tree value collected by Tahsildars and the value of forest growth sold. Notwithstanding this, the net

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income of the Forest Department in that year was only less than Rs. 15,000 after debiting the Tramway expenses. In the face of this, there can be no doubt that the State has nothing to lose by the abolition of the Forest-Tramway. The demand for the Tramway *minus* the small income shown in the budget can thus be saved.

The objection to the demands on account of the Agricultural Farm and the Cocoanut Station are also not groundless, even though I have nothing to say against the department itself as a whole. The Cocoanut Station has already cost the State over Rs. 1,00,000 and still we get an income of only Rs. 170 as against an expenditure of Rs. 4,000 and odd. I don't think there is any justification for spending such a large sum for experimental purposes. The case of the Agricultural Farm seems to me no better. There we find the department spending Rs. 23,000 and odd, excluding the pay of the permanent staff, and realizing about Rs. 13,000 by way of return. If the object of maintaining these is to show the people the advantage of the improved system of agriculture, the result would be just the contrary. The Agricultural Department should not be allowed to spend on account of them more than what the department realises out of them.

Coming to the question of the demands of the Leper Asylum and the First Grade College, I do not see how they are not necessary at all. The necessity for a Leper Asylum in the State is not questioned. But the demand is objected to on the ground that the Anappara scheme should not have been abandoned. The latter scheme was given up by the Government after mature consideration and I do not think there is any use of reviving the controversy again. It is not true to say that no objections were raised to the location of the Asylum there, before the late Diwan took charge of his office here. Representations were made to his predecessor as soon as some of us came to know of his scheme; but our representations were unheeded at the time and the mistake committed by him was only rectified by his successor.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

I rise to a point of order.

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President.—The member is in order.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jew*).

Is the member entitled to reply us?

President.—He is not replying. He is making his own remark s Please sit down.

Mr. V. K. KOCHUNNI MENON (*Ernakulam*).

With regard to the First Grade College, the remarks made by some of the speakers are altogether unjustifiable. It was after mature consideration that the Government decided to raise the College to the First Grade and the report of the Committee appointed to consider the subject fully supports the decision of the Government. Whatever may be the defects in the system of education imparted in the colleges of Southern India, the necessity for such higher education as we have is self-evident from the fact that three colleges have been brought into existence in Kerala itself recently. The question then is whether the existence of these colleges does away with the necessity of raising the standard of our College also. As is well known, there is no provision for teaching several of the more useful subjects in the other three colleges, nor is there provision for ladies in the Alwaye or Trichur College. There is therefore absolutely no ground for saying that there was no necessity for raising the standard of the Ernakulam College.

With regard to the provision for electric lighting of Mattancherry, I fully endorse the view of the speakers who addressed yesterday. It is a matter of luxury and that must give place to necessity. The total allotment to the other three Municipalities together is much less than that amount. When those Municipalities are not supplied with funds even for absolute necessities, it would be rather unjust to allow such a large sum to a rich Municipality like Mattancherry, and that to supply a demand for luxury.

Objection is taken to some of the demands of the P. W. D. on the ground that they are original works and as such unnecessary at present. It seems to me that an original work may be as necessary as any other work and the necessity of the work depends upon other circumstances.

With these few remarks, I leave the subject in the hands of the Government for such revision as it thinks proper.

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Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancherry*).

Sir, I wish to speak on one or two subjects. First, about Rs. 25,000 allotted for the Mattancherry Electric Lighting. I think, one could fancy that Mattancherry is a sanitorium, which has got all other necessaries except this. But it is not so. Mattancherry is dirty, filthy and insanitary and where you pass the Kalvetty bridge, you get a glorious odour from the two drains on the sides of the road, until you go to the Ferry Jetty, where fortunately no drains exist. Drains are made there as cesspools. Water only remains and does not flow. It stagnates in the drain. One word more to this House to complete the sanitary condition. A public latrine was brought to the heart of the town and to the very door of the Jewish cemetery. Why? The arbitrary ways in which the Municipal works are carried out are well known. The relationship of the Council and the Chairman is not at all cordial.

President.—Has it any bearing on the general discussion of the budget ?

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancherry*).

I am coming to it, Sir. Therefore, what we want is not electric light. But we want pure water. There is no proper medical aid there. Suppose, a poor man gets sick at night and requires surgical help. From that place no boats can be had to bring the patient to Ernakulam. But a rich man can get a motor boat. He, the patient, would not be admitted in the British Cochin Hospital, because he is a native of the State. The result is you will either die or live. It is a case of the survival of the fittest.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

It is not in fact a case of the survival of the fittest.

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancherry*).

Now, Sir, I say, deficit or no deficit, the Rs. 25,000 should now be allotted to us for the urgent needs of sanitation; that is, it may be used either for building a small hospital of 10 beds, or bringing Alwaye water by boats or tanks or pipes, or for sinking wells Pallivirutti, as is being done at Nemmara. Now, I have finished with that subject.

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Now, one or two words more about the Forest and Agricultural Departments. Members after members said that the expenses exceed the income. I suggest that a small committee of officials and non-officials—majority non-officials—be formed to go into all the particulars in every department to see if a retrenchment policy could be brought about. It could cut short any expenditure that is not considered worth while. Of course, many members said that the cocoanut-pest was seen in Vendurutti. I beg to add, there is enough in Vypeen, Vellarpadam and Cochin.

President.—It has extended to Kadamakkudi.

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancherry*)

I saw a notice saying that the branches should be cut down. Certainly we expected that. We wanted some real remedy.

President.—The remedy lies in the cutting.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

In the notice it is said that a fine of Rs. 25 is to be paid if branches are not cut down.

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancherry*).

Of course, some members said that the Agricultural Department should be stopped, bag and baggage. That is the extremist point of view. I only suggest, Sir, that a committee may be formed to see about this. I have always wished to emphasise that practical demonstration should be given to the masses.

The Hon'ble Finance Member said, or at least we understand from his budget, that fresh taxation should be brought about, if this sort of expenditure is continued. I certainly oppose any fresh taxation. We pay Rs. 7 per head. I should say that this itself is very high. That should only be considered when we find any other means impracticable. If we can cut down our expenditure, we do not come to the necessity of going in for fresh taxes. What I am going to say does not concern me personally. There is some feeling here among the non-officials that travelling allowance should be given to them at the rates given to officials. If you would do it, Sir, the whole body of non-officials shall be highly pleased.

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Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VATAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

Sir,

I beg leave to convey to His Highness the Maharaja the humb'e respects of His Highness' loyal subjects in my constituency for giving the people in this State a voice in the administration of the State. While assuringHis Highness that I shall loyally discharge the duties entrusted to me, I earnestly pray to those in whom His Highness has been pleased to invest the powers of guiding the deliberations of this House, to follow a very liberal policy and thus to carry out His Highness' earnest desire to associate His Highness' subjets "in an increasing measure with the Government of the State".

We, the chosen representatives of the people, respectfully demand that we should in no way be treated inferior to the official members in this House.

I hesitate to congratulate the Government on submitting a deficit budget at the first meeting of the Council; and I believe that, if a little more pains had been taken for a readjustment of revenue and expenditure, a balanced budget, if not a surplus one, could have been presented. Necessary improvements in the revenue receipts have not been successfully effected; and retrenchments also are possible in the cost of the various departments of administration. To effect a saving, all supernumerary appointments should be abolished; all extravagance and luxurious expenditure should be completely thrown overboard; and to steer clear of all difficulties in the future, efficient and capable officials who can understand and sympathise with the non-official point of view should be placed on the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. I fail to understand the reason why the Government removed from the Finance Committee the Diwan Peishkar, an experienced officer, who was nominated as one of the official members of the Committee.

I regret to point out that the failure to apply a test of efficiency, before conferring appointments, has tended to leave efficiency of departments at a discount. The administration has become also top-heavy. In the present circumstances, therefore, a thorough overhauling of all departments is an inevitable necessity. I may

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draw to the attention of this House the report submitted to the Government of Bengal by the Retrenchment Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal to consider the reduction of the pay of the Bengal Civil Service (Executive Branch) with Mr. J. Donald as the President. The powers of this House are so restricted that it could not discuss and vote upon many items of expenditure and it would therefore be better as has been suggested, to appoint a Retrenchment Committee, I may add, consisting mainly of non-official members enjoying the confidence of this House; or else the appointment of such a Committee would prove to be another source for wasting the hard-earned money of the loyal subjects of His Highness.

The Depressed Classes.—

I would earnestly request the Government to bestow more attention than hitherto on the education of the so-called untouchables. It is a matter of extreme regret that the depressed classes of Cochin are a neglected section of the people who are not much benefited by the present administration Though Cochin is one of the most educated and enlightened States in India, the depressed classes in the State are still kept down in ignorance and in an almost semi-barbarous State. It is to be noted here that, in the budget, there is an allotment of Rs. 7,600 for Pulaya education. But this amount, I submit, is too small and insufficient for the education of one lakh of people constituting the depressed classes, out of a total population of about 10 lakhs. The education of these semi-barbarous people, representing more than one-tenth of the population, has been practically neglected and ignored in the past, with the result that they are now absolutely illiterate. It would seem to be strange that in these days when we are making costly arrangements for Secondary and Collegiate education, a section of His Highness' subjects, who are practically dumb, should be deprived of opportunities to receive instruction in the three Rs.

I beg to submit that a heavy responsibility rests upon the Government to give special facilities and encouragement for the education of the depressed classes. In order to undo the wrong

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